



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2007 WINTER CONFERENCE PORTLAND, OREGON

RESOLUTION #07 - 18

"SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION IN TRIBAL LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND HISTORY IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON"

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, federal policy fully supports specialized teacher certification for Native American language, history and culture instruction as cited in *P.L. 101-477, Native American Languages Act*; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Language Act fully supports including the goals for Native American history and culture as an integral component of Native American language instruction which is cited in *P.L. 101-477, Native American Languages Act, Sec. 102(3), Sec. 104.(3)*; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13336, dated April 30, 2004, American Indian and Alaskan Education, provides: "This Administration is committed to continuing to work with these federally recognized tribal governments on a government-to-government basis, and support tribal sovereignty and self-determination. It is the purpose of this order to assist American Indian and Alaska Native students in meeting challenging academic standards of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (PL 107-110) *in a manner that is consistent with tribal traditions, languages, and culture*"; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State legislature passed legislation in 2005 encouraging the teaching of tribal history in the Washington State public schools; and

WHEREAS, the general teacher requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 does not address the teaching of Native American languages, history and culture; and

WHEREAS, the unique issues regarding Native American language, history and culture instruction does not have parallels in the other general areas of instruction covered by the NCLB Act; and

WHEREAS, very few people are qualified in these areas and the NCLB Act criteria does not translate to the qualifications held by tribal community teachers who have the expertise to teach their own tribe's language, history and culture; and

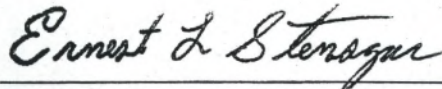
WHEREAS, sovereign tribal governments retain the sole expertise in the training of teachers in tribal language, culture and history; now

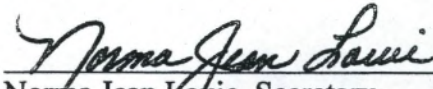
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby urges the Washington State legislature to pass S. 5269 and H.R. 1226, establishing the First Peoples' Language, Culture and History Teacher Certification Program: Honoring Our Ancestors Act, which provides for certification in Tribal Language/Culture/History; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby calls on the President of the United States and Congress to revise the definition of Highly Qualified Teacher of the No Child Left Behind Act to include tribal teachers trained through certification programs offered through sovereign tribal governments.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2007 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport Hotel Portland, Oregon on February 15, 2007, with a quorum present.



Ernest L. Stensgar, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary